United Nations A/54/950

General Assembly

Distr.: General
31 July 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 47
The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Letter dated 28 July 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to refer to the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA), which was established to verify compliance with the commitments contained in the 1996 Peace Agreements, signed by the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG).

The purpose of the present letter is to inform you that, after consulting the two parties, I have decided to appoint Mr. Gerd D. Merrem as my Special Representative in Guatemala and Head of MINUGUA, in succession to Mr. Jean Arnault, who has taken up a new position as my Representative for Burundi. His appointment will take effect on 1 August 2000. Mr. Merrem's curriculum vitae is attached (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

00-58535 (E) 010800

Annex

Curriculum vitae of Gerd D. Merrem

Nationality:	German
Date of birth:	4 June 1938
Marital status:	Married, two children
Languages:	German — mother tongue. Fluency in English, Spanish and Portuguese. Fair working knowledge of French. Some Swedish and Bahasa Indonesia
Education:	
1958-1963	Technical University of Hanover and Berlin, M.Sc. equivalent in Mining and Oil Engineering
1963-1965	Free University of Berlin, studies in philosophy, history and journalism (BA equivalent)
Experience:	
1998-	Farming and consultancies
1996-1998	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Tajikistan (truce/peace treaty negotiations and implementation)
1992-1996	Deputy Executive Director and Director of Operations, United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), Vienna
1990-1992	Resident Representative, UNDP in Myanmar/Burma (design and management of 5-year $150 mio cooperation programme)
1989-1990	United Nations assignments: election verification in Nicaragua (ONUVEN) and election advisory services in Haiti
1987-1989	Deputy Director, Administration and Management Services Division, UNDP
1984-1987	Resident Representative, UNDP in Angola (with concurrent responsibility for Namibia support programme)
1980-1983	Resident Representative, UNDP in Equatorial Guinea
1978-1980	Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP in the United Republic of Tanzania
1973-1978	Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP in Indonesia, then India
1972	Detention for aviation assistance to political refugees, Bolivia
1970-1972	Resident Coordinator, German Volunteer Programme in Bolivia
1967-1969	Resident Coordinator, German Volunteer Programme in Zambia
1965-1967	Researcher (public opinion polls) INFAS, Bonn, Germany
1961	Junior engineer, Directional Oil Drilling, COPE/AGIP, Egypt

Between 1978 and 1996, various United Nations/UNDP missions encompassing situation analysis, field security, programme strategy and operations management in Brazil, Colombia, Peru, China, Afghanistan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam, Yemen, Bangladesh, Kenya and Senegal.

Federal Order of Merit, Germany (1998). Independence Order of Merit, Equatorial Guinea (1983). Honorary Citizen of Cusco/Peru (1994) and Penjikent/Tajikistan (1997).

Personal interests: astrophysics, history, farming, flying and sailing